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Seventy-first year

Letter dated 25 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Robert Fico, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, nominating Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

I would like to kindly ask your assistance in circulating the present letter with the attached biography and vision statement of Mr. Lajčák among the distinguished Member States of the United Nations as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) František **Ružička**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-08612 (E) 020616

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Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 25 May 2016 from the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, with reference to General Assembly resolution 69/321 adopted on 11 September 2015 and in connection with the joint letter of the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council dated 15 December 2015 (A/70/623-S/2015/988), I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Slovak Republic has decided to nominate Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Slovakia is firmly committed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter. As one of the 193 Member States, my country fully and actively participates in the work of the United Nations, its organs, funds and programmes. Effective multilateralism has always been among the cornerstones of Slovakia's foreign policy.

The challenges and threats that the international community currently faces call for intensification of our collective efforts aimed at reaching consensual solutions and effective implementation of reached agreements. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others, is essential nowadays. The role of the United Nations and of its Secretary-General is indispensable in that regard.

As stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/321, Member States are invited to present candidates with proven leadership and managerial skills, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills. In the same spirit, the Government of the Slovak Republic has decided to nominate its Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák.

Mr. Lajčák has dedicated his entire professional career to international relations and diplomacy. In addition to representing Czechoslovakia and Slovakia abroad, he served as Assistant to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans (1999-2001), as Personal Representative of the European Union's High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy for the Referendum on the Independence of Montenegro (2006), as High Representative of the International Community and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2007-2009) and as Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the European External Action Service (2010-2012).

He is currently in his third mandate as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He was reappointed to that position by the President of the Slovak Republic on 23 March 2016, following the recent parliamentary elections in Slovakia.

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Mr. Lajčák for the kind consideration of all Member States as a highly qualified and experienced candidate for the position of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. As ever, he is dedicated to fulfilling his duties and responsibilities in that regard with utmost professionalism and commitment.

The curriculum vitae of Mr. Lajčák is attached to the present letter (see enclosure).

I kindly request that the present letter and its enclosure be brought to the attention of all United Nations Member States.

(*Signed*) Robert **Fico**
Prime Minister

16-08612

Enclosure

Curriculum vitae*

Miroslav Lajčák (Slovak Republic)

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Miroslav Lajčák (53) is a career diplomat who has spent his whole professional life working in diplomatic service — both of his own country and in international institutions. His personal credo is professionalism and responsibility. He considers dialogue and respect to be the main instruments of diplomacy. He believes in cooperation and inclusiveness.

He is known as an attentive listener, determined mediator and capable manager, who has experience with conflict resolution and conflict prevention at the national and international levels. He is a strong believer in multilateralism and respect for rules. During his career, he played an active role in mediating the post-conflict crises in the Western Balkans and in the transformation of his country (which was established after the peaceful split of Czechoslovakia), as well as in building the diplomatic service of the European Union.

He is currently serving his third term as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

National Diplomatic Career

He is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute for International Relations. After completing his university studies by obtaining a law degree at the Comenius University in Bratislava, he joined the Foreign Service of the then Czechoslovakia in 1988. In 1991, he was posted to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow as an Assistant to the Ambassador. When Czechoslovakia split in 1992, he continued in the same position at the Slovak Embassy in Moscow.

Upon his return to Slovakia in 1993 to the newly established Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, he took an active part in forming the national Foreign Service. He became Director of the Cabinet of the Foreign Minister and later on, Director of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister.

In 1994 he was appointed Slovak Ambassador to Japan, becoming the youngest-ever Head of Diplomatic Mission of Slovakia. At the age of 31, he was also the youngest foreign ambassador in Japan.

In 1998, after his posting to Japan, he returned to the Foreign Ministry to become for the second time Director of Foreign Minister's Cabinet. In 2001, he was appointed Slovak Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2001-2005). During this time, he deepened his knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the Western Balkans. In recognition of his active engagement in this complex region, he was awarded the highest state award of the former Yugoslavia.

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Following his term in Belgrade, he was named Political Director at the Foreign Ministry (2005-2007). During this period, he was also designated Head of the Secretariat preparing the Summit of the Presidents of Russia and the United States of America, held in Bratislava in February 2005. In this capacity, he was in charge of liaising and coordinating — on behalf of the Slovak State authorities — with both presidential administrations and making sure that the Bush-Putin Summit in Slovakia was well prepared in terms of organization and logistics.

Government Experience

In January 2009, he was called — as a career diplomat not affiliated to any political party — to join the Slovak coalition government in the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs. He held the post until July 2010.

From April 2012 to March 2016, during the term of office of the next government, he held the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs — again as a professional diplomat with no party affiliation. In addition, he became Chairman of the Government's Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. In that capacity, he successfully headed and completed an unprecedented and inclusive process of preparing and adopting the first-ever nationwide Strategy for Supporting and Protecting Human Rights in Slovakia in 2015, managing a consensus of minority and disadvantaged groups among various interests from human rights and minority representatives, political parties and churches.

In March 2016, he was elected as a Member of Parliament and received the sixth highest number of preferential votes in the whole country. On 23 March 2016, he was reappointed Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in the newly formed coalition government, holding this government portfolio for the third time. One of his main tasks in this term is the preparation of the country for the rotating Presidency of Slovakia in the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2016.

International Career

His international engagements started in 1999 when he served as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans, Eduard Kukan (until 2001).

In 2006, the European Union High Representative for Common and Security Policy Javier Solana entrusted him — on behalf of the European Union — with organizing and supervising the referendum on the independence of Montenegro in 2006. In a highly polarized environment with a divided public and an antagonized political scene, he negotiated and designed the rules for the referendum. He did this in an inclusive dialogue with all the parties and in a transparent manner. This led to the only process of the establishment of national independence on the territory of former Yugoslavia under direct European Union auspices in a consensual and democratic way, without the bloodshed or conflicts so frequent in that region. The result was neither rejected nor questioned by anyone subsequently.

In 2007, he was appointed High Representative of the International Community and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He had to help to steer a country paralyzed by ethnic divisions and

mutual distrust among its entities. In this capacity, he managed an extensive, multinational staff of several hundred people and a multi-million-dollar budget. With a mandate from the Security Council, he liaised regularly with the United Nations and reported periodically to the Security Council. During his tenure, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union — the most remarkable integration success of the country for many years to come. He also launched activities to reach out to the population, including speaking tours and a website for dialogue with citizens. His concerted efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina earned him the title "Personality of the Year", awarded to him independently in all three Bosnia and Herzegovina entities, in 2007. He left Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2009 after being nominated to serve as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia.

In 2010-2012, he served as Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the newly formed diplomatic service of the European Union — European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels. Again, he took an active part in building up a completely new service — this time an international one. He was engaged in setting the rules for its operation and managing numerous multinational staff. In this position, he participated in forming European Union policy and the European Union's ties with important neighbours to the East and South-East. One of his first political missions was to mediate the political crisis in Albania and bring the governing and opposition parties to the negotiating table in order to de-escalate tensions after deadly clashes in Tirana in early 2011. In parallel to the position of the EEAS Managing Director, he also acted as the European Union's Chief Negotiator for the Association Agreements of the European Union with Ukraine and with the Republic of Moldova, as well as the European Union Representative in the "5+2" Talks on the Transnistria Settlement. In recognition of his role, he was awarded the highest state award of the Republic of Moldova.

Public Profile

He is active in the academic world, as well as in the traditional and social media. He is often invited to give lectures or participate in discussions at leading international universities (for example, John Hopkins University, University of Berkeley, Moscow Institute of International Relations, Chinese Diplomatic Academy, London School of Economics, Bocconi University Milan, etc.), think tanks or foundations (Atlantic Council, GMF, Friends of Europe Brussels, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Berlin, International Peace Institute, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI) Paris, etc.).

His opinions and comments are asked for, published or quoted in international media (Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Economist, Der Spiegel, Die Welt, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Diplomatico — Portugal, Daily Nation — Kenya, etc.).

He speaks English, Russian, German, all Slavic languages of the Balkans, Bulgarian and French.

He is married and has 2 daughters. His wife Jarmila, a popular TV journalist, is also well-known for dedicating a lot of her time to charities.

Professional Career

March 23, 2016-present	Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
April 2012-March 2016	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
December 2010-April 2012	Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service, Brussels
January 2009-July 2010	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
July 2007-January 2009	High Representative/European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
2006	Personal Representative of the European Union High Representative for Common and Security Policy to facilitate the referendum on the independence of Montenegro
2005-2007	Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
2005	Head of the Permanent Secretariat for the Organization of the Summit of Presidents of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and the United States of America, George W. Bush, held in Bratislava in February 2005
2001-2005	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (later Serbia and Montenegro), Republic of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
1999-2001	Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans, Eduard Kukan
1998-2001	Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
1994-1998	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to Japan
1993-1994	Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
	Director of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic
1991-1993	Embassy of Czechoslovakia in Moscow, Russian Federation (from 1 January 1993 Embassy of the Slovak Republic)
1988-1991	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Prague

Education

Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Faculty of International Relations

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law

College of International and Security Studies George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

Foreign Language Skills

English, Russian, German, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian/Montenegrin, Bulgarian, French

Honours and Awards

Order of the Yugoslav Star, 1st Class (2005)

Order of Honour of the Republic of Moldova (2014)

Order of the Montenegrin Great Star (2016)

Activities

European Council on Foreign Relations — Council Member

Friends of Europe/Les Amis de l'Europe — Board of Trustees Member